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ripe, however, for such a work, and the work is worthy of the time ; students of constitutional history will find no book more helpful in stimulating them to broader views. A feature which will increase its usefulness is a very full table of contents.

CLIVE DAY.

The Early History of Venice. From the Foundation to the Conquest of Constantinople, A. D. 1204. By F. C. HODGSON. (London : George Allen. 1901. Pp. xx, 473.)

MR. HODGSON's volume aims at presenting the history of Venice on a scale larger than that employed by Mr. Horatio F. Brown and smaller than Mr. W. C. Hazlitt's. A comparison of his work with theirs shows that it fills a field which theirs do not, and has, accordingly, a sufficient reason for being. Mr. Brown's plan precluded elaboration. Mr. Hazlitt is elaborate even to diffuseness, and in spite of all his immense knowledge of Venetian history and life, this diffuseness, coupled with a ponderous style, becomes at times wearisome. Mr. Hodgson, on the other hand, devotes much space to a critical analysis of his material without wholly exhausting the reader's patience. At his best, he is never so vivid as Mr. Hazlitt's best passages but his average is more satisfactory.

Mr. Hodgson differs from both Mr. Brown and Mr. Hazlitt in having made larger use than they of recent German material, and perhaps it is on this account that he inclines to accept their interpretation of some of the moot questions in early Venetian history. Chief among these questions is the determining of the exact relations of Venice to Byzantium during the first four centuries of the Republic's existence. Venetian historians have minimized the dependence ; Mr. Hodgson, in common with Gfrörer, and, it should be added, with many earlier writers, seems to regard the dependence as so pressing that we must suppose that the early doges were Byzantine officers. The advocates of this view lay much stress on the facts that several of the doges held the title "*Hypatos*" from the Eastern Emperor, and that "*Magister Militum*" was "the title of a high functionary in the Byzantine Empire," as well as in Venice in the eighth century. But in the absence of final proof, which has not yet been produced, I believe that the other view is preferable. The key to Venetian history down to the twelfth century is the adroitness with which the statesmen of the Lagoons steered their safe course between the Western Empire and the Eastern, always siding, in case of danger, with the more remote. That the Byzantine influence was great, cannot be disputed, but it never, so far as I recall, took the form of political dictation. If Venice had actually been a Byzantine dependency, it is incredible that from 460 to 1160 we should have no record of an attempt to set up imperial governors, or to exert active imperial authority in the Venetian community. Titles, of themselves, prove little, and it is certain that the Venetians rendered lip-service to the Frankish emperors as compliantly as to the Greek : they rendered lip-service, and then went on their own political road undisturbed.

But to criticise a single point is hardly just, unless the critic has much space at his command. Even readers who are well-informed on Venetian history, will find throughout Mr. Hodgson's book so careful an analysis of material that it will be worth their while to consult it. He has evidently studied the sources at first hand, and not merely the early chronicles, but also the philologists, Ducange and Diez, for the light they can throw on the early medieval customs and titles. He has studied carefully minute details of geography, on a knowledge of which the solution of many problems depends. He is least satisfactory in failing to give from time to time illuminating summaries of the course of events, and in missing legitimate opportunities for vivid description. The meeting of Pope Alexander III. and Frederick Barbarossa at Venice, for instance, was one of the transcendent episodes in medieval history ; to describe it in the colorless language which might suit the minutes of a missionary society meeting, betrays either unusual insensibility or timidity on the part of the historian. Probably Mr. Hodgson was afraid to let himself go, lest by being fervent he might be suspected of inaccuracy. But surely that is a false view of writing history which forbids one to treat great events greatly, and which hopes to attain to a specious veracity by using the same language and the same scale for great and small.

Mr. Hodgson's last chapter, in which he tells the story of the fourth Crusade, is the most interesting, perhaps because he wisely gains vividness by frequent reference to the delightful old Villehardouin. He also discusses fully the charge that the Venetians, in diverting the Crusade, acted in bad faith. He keeps his judgment clear amid the ethical tangle in which Innocent III. involved the crusaders. An appendix contains an excursus on the sources for the history of the fourth Crusade.

To sum up : Mr. Hodgson's success has been sufficient in this volume to warrant his going forward and completing the history. Painstaking and fairness are indispensable foundations to any historical work ; if to these he will add enthusiasm, a more effective style, and a full recognition that the men who made history were once really alive, his later volumes will be better than his first. He provides a good index, but his single page of *errata* does not give half of them. English scholars seem to be congenitally indifferent to the spelling of foreign words.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

A Short History of Germany. By ERNEST F. HENDERSON. (New York : The Macmillan Company. 1902. Two vols., pp. x, 517 ; vii, 471.)

In the delightful *Letters* of the historian Green, there are repeated passages in which the author tries to distinguish between his own conceptions and methods and those of what he calls the pragmatic historians of the German school. The expression is a good one and can be applied in its full validity to the present work. Mr. Henderson has given us a pragmatic history. Indeed it would be curious if a man who bears the manifest hall-mark of the German seminar, who shows the widest